

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5183

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18252

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, UXF

SUBJECT: SOVIET VIEWS ON A PLO GOVERNMENT

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. VARIOUS REPORTS FROM DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES TEND TO CONFIRM THAT THE SOVIETS POURED COLD WATER ON THE IDEA OF A PALESTINIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE DURING ARAFAT'S RECENT VISIT HERE.

2. GERMAN AMBASSADOR HAS HEARD FROM JORDANIANS THAT PONOMAREV ALLEGEDLY TOLD ARAFAT DIRECTLY THAT HE SHOULD NOT SET UP A GOVERNMENT IN EXILE. SIMILARLY, ACCORDING YUGOSLAV SOURCE, KOSYGIN TOLD ARAFAT THE TIME WAS NOT
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RIGHT FOR SUCH A MOVE.

3. ARAB AMBASSADORS HAVE BEEN PAINTING THE SOVIET POSITION IN LESS CATAGORICAL TERMS. BOTH ALGERIAN AND EGYPTIAN AMBASSADORS TOLD BRITISH THAT THERE WOULD BE NO IMMEDIATE MOVE TO FORM A PLO GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT WHEN SUCH A GOVERNMENT IS SET UP, SOVIET RECOGNITION "WOULD FOLLOW" AFTER ARAB AND THIRD WORLD STATES ACCORDED RECOGNITION.

4. CANADIAN EMBOFF TOLD US RECENTLY THAT THEIR EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM THE ME THAT ONE OF THE IMPEDIMENTS FACING THE PLO EXILE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL IS FINDING A PLACE TO PUT IT. ACCORDING TO THE CANADIANS THE IRAQIS HAVE MADE AN OFFER, BUT SPECIFIED THAT THE PLO HEADQUARTERS COLD NOT BE IN BAGHDAD. ALLEGEDLY THE SITE OFFERED WAS SOMEWHERE IN THE IRAQI BOONDOCKS. A SECOND POSSIBLE SITE WAS REPORTEDLY OFFERED BY USSEIN, BUT AGAIN PLO WAS TO BE KEPT OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE REPORTS ARE COMATIBLE WITH WHAT WE HAVE HEARD FROM SOVIETS, WHO CONSISTENTLY HAVE SHOWN NO MARKED ENTHUSIASM FOR THE IDEA OF A PLO GOVERNMENT.
STOESSEL

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